

# A self-training journey to the Symphony Certification - and beyond

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platform.sh 

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# Who's that?

Hi! I'm Camille!

THIS IS ME IN MY  
COMFORT ZONE



## I'm a software engineer at Platform.sh

- + Used to be a structural engineer
- + Then started my own architectural company
- + 2020 Retrained as a software engineer
- + Software engineer in the Blackfire team

## I love roller derby!

- + Playing and coaching for Roller Derby Bordeaux Club

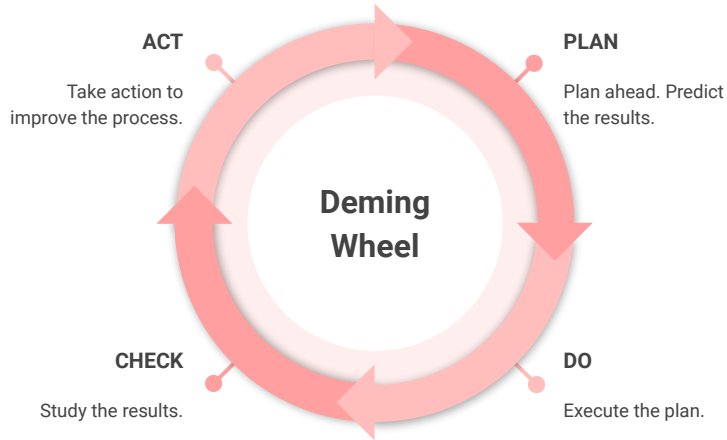
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# The methodology

Aka the battle plan

# Manage your project



## Follow these steps:

1. Panic (OPTIONAL)
2. Gather information
3. Organize and Plan
  - + What?
  - + How?
  - + When?
4. Do
5. Adjust the plan
  - + Loop on 3. to 5.

# My outcome

Symfony Certification - Plan

11/01/2022

**GOAL** = Get certified by end of November 2022!

• Preparatory steps:

- ① (Re)read Symfony ~~5~~<sup>6</sup>: The Fast Track
- ② Read links + the doc on all 14 chapters of the certif.
- ~~③ Preparatory questions (certification) for each chapter~~
- ~~④ "Mock exam" sessions (certification)~~
- ⑤ Certif. exam #1. ~ July 2022

in case of failure:

- ⑥ Redefine battle plan according to results
- ⋮
- ⊗ Certif. exam #2. ~ November 2022

• Available time before exams. ~ 6 to 7 months

Ⓜ Exam #1. W31 }  
Prep. starts W3. } ⇒ 28 weeks of prep!

# The timeline

Because a wrong planning is better than no planning at all

# Plan your prep

## TIP

If you have the time and money, plan a test round of the exam. Adjust the plan and the timeline after this test round!

## 1. Set your goal

- + When do you want/need to be certified?
- + Be realistic!

## 2. Retroplan

- + Try to fit the battle plan into the timeline.
- + It's OK if it's wrong!!!

## 3. Check and adjust

- + Make it less and less wrong.



# My outcome

Symfony Certifica~~o~~ - Planning  
11/01/2022

	LOL	Complete by
① S5: The Fast Track <span style="border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">~2 weeks</span>		30/01
<del>②<sup>2</sup> Read + questions on all chapters ~18 weeks</del>		<del>05/06</del>
<del><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>→ PHP</li><li>→ HTTP</li><li>→ SF architecture</li><li>→ Controllers</li><li>→ Routing</li><li>→ Templating w/ Twig</li><li>→ Forms</li><li>→ Data valida<del>o</del></li><li>→ Dependency inject<del>o</del></li><li>→ Security</li><li>→ HTTP caching</li><li>→ Console</li><li>→ Automated tests</li><li>→ Misc</li></ul></del>	Targeted reading while coding	
<del>③ Mock exams + reviewing ~8 weeks</del>		<del>31/01</del>
Certif. exam #1	✓	<del>05/06</del> 13/06

# The tool(s)

Time to make use of these Excel skills

# Monitor your progress

## TIP

Keep in mind your target is not the perfect tool, it's the certification :)

## What to monitor?

- + 2 main dimensions
  - Time spent
  - Knowledge acquired
- + 2 main goals
  - Observe your progression
  - Adjust your plan and timeline

## How to monitor it?

- + Choose a tool and commit to it
  - Asana
  - Trello
  - Google Calendar & Tasks
  - Excel spreadsheet...

# My outcome

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
		Effort points	Status	Remaining effort	Comments		My personal stats :)		
						Completed on	Took me	Mindset	
3	<b>GENERAL TOTAL (to update BambooHR accordingly)</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>138.25</b>					
5	<b>PHP</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>10</b>					
6	PHP API up to PHP 8.1 version	1	0%	1					
7	Object Oriented Programming	1	0%	1					
8	Namespaces	1	0%	1					
9	Interfaces	1	0%	1					
10	Anonymous functions and closures	1	0%	1					
11	Abstract classes	1	0%	1					
12	Exception and error handling	1	0%	1					
13	Traits	1	0%	1					
14	PHP extensions	1	0%	1					
15	SPL	1	0%	1					
17	<b>HTTP</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>2.25</b>					
18	Client / Server interaction	3	100%	0		14/02/2022	3h		
19	Status codes	1	100%	0	Flashcards needed to memorize (WIP)	26/01/2022	2h		7
20	HTTP request	1	100%	0		27/01/2022	2h		7
21	HTTP response	1	100%	0		27/01/2022	0,5h		10
22	HTTP methods	1	100%	0		27/01/2022	1h		10
23	Cookies	2	100%	0		11/02/2022	6h		7
24	Caching	0	100%	0	Already treated in a separate chapter				
25	Content negotiation	1	100%	0		14/02/2022	1,5h		10
26	Language detection	1	100%	0		14/02/2022	0,5h		10
27	Symfony HttpClient component	3	25%	2.25		WIP	2h/7 + 1h		
179	<b>Symfony: The Fast Track</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>					
180	Checking your Work Environment	1	100%	0					
181	Introducing the Project	1	100%	0					
182	Going from Zero to Production	1	100%	0					
183	Adopting a Methodology	1	100%	0					
184	Troubleshooting Problems	1	100%	0					
185	Creating a Controller	1	100%	0					
186	Setting up a Database	1	100%	0					
187	Describing the Data Structure	1	100%	0					
188	Setting up an Admin Backend	1	100%	0					
189	Building the User Interface	1	100%	0					
190	Branching the Code	1	100%	0					
191	Listening to Events	1	100%	0					
192	Managing the Lifecycle of Doctrine Objects	1	100%	0					
193	Accepting Feedback with Forms	1	100%	0					
194	Securing the Admin Backend	1	100%	0					
195	Preventing Spam with an API	1	100%	0					
196	Testing	1	100%	0					
197	Going Async	1	100%	0					
198	Making Decisions with a Workflow	1	100%	0					
199	Emailing Admins	1	100%	0					
200	Caching for Performance	1	100%	0					

Mindset scale	
1	Really bad, a pain in the ass
4	Not that good, really distracted
7	Kinda good, but distracted
10	Really good, super focused

# The resources

Let's farm!

# Dig for gold

## TIP

Join the `#certification` channel in the Symfony Dev slack workspace.

## People

- + Onboard everybody with you - Mentor(s), colleagues & tech network, friends & family
  - Ask questions
  - Get tips & tricks
  - Get support
- + Study group

## Time & Money

- + Talk to your manager
  - Ask for dedicated time to prepare
  - Ask for your company to pay for both exams
  - Ask for your company to pay for your training

## Knowledge

- + Remember step 1 when you collected data :)
- + Code! → Practice makes perfect.

# My outcome

## TIP

If you have \$\$\$, have a look at the [Symfony 6 Certification Online Coaching with SensioLabs University](#).

## Time & Money

- + 20% of my time dedicated to the certification preparation (1 day per week)
- + Exam(s) paid by my company

## Knowledge

- + [Symfony 6: The Fast Track](#) → read it, understand it, practice it
- + [Symfony Documentation](#)
- + [ThomasBerends / symfony-certification-preparation-list](#) → Curated list of pointers by Thomas Berends. Don't forget to give it a star ★
- + Code!!!

# The exam

Where all these efforts get rewarded 🎉



# Stating the obvious...

## TIP

Don't forget to celebrate with all the people that helped you when you get the results :)

## What does the Symfony Certification look like?

- + Public information:
  - Online
  - 75 questions
  - 90 minutes
  - No code to write
- + Types of questions:
  - True / False
  - Single answer
  - Multiple choice
- + In English → Prepare in English!!!
- + The rest is confidential
  - Read [the certification website](#) to fish for information
  - Test round!

# What next?

Yup, there is more

# Apply this all the time...

## All of this can be applied to **\*any\*** self-training project

- + During the battle plan elaboration: define what you want/need to learn
  - What is the expected outcome?
  - How far do you want/need to go?
  - What is your Definition Of Done?
- + Maybe add validation steps with your manager if your self-training is required for your work
  - Between the battle plan and the timeline

# ... and manage your career!

## TIP

Have a look at <https://roadmap.sh/> to find inspiration on what to learn next.

## What does self-training have to do with career management?

- + “Your progression is:
  - 10% your manager’s responsibility to make sure you don’t stagnate
  - 90% your individual responsibility to manage your own career”
- + You don’t have control over your entire career progression, but you DO have control over the skills you acquire.

## How do I do?

- + Be proactive!
- + Mentoring is key
  - If you don’t have a mentor yet, find (at least) one.
  - Become a mentor!

## The dream

- + Exit the fixed career ladder, enters the skills map exploration!

# A Guild Wars 2 analogy

Because why not?

Progression (monde)

0%



0/303  
11/486  
2/653

Collines de Kessex

Achèvement

0%

0/14  
0/16  
0/20

You are here

Collines de Kessex

15 - 25

This role is adapted to your level

First you start exploring a new role





Progression (monde)

0%

0/303 0/189

12/486 0/226

2/653

Collines de Kessex

Achèvement

1%

0/14 0/5

1/16 0/9

0/20

## 1. Learn PHP



Voie de l'itinérant

You can also learn RabbitMQ, but I wouldn't start there

## 2. Learn Symfony



Aider Micah de la Garde du Lion à protéger la zone autour du Refuge noir pour les voyageurs. (Niveau 16)

16044 Lieues

La Garde du Lion cherche à défendre les routes commerciales de l'Arche du Lion. Mais nous vivons une période difficile et nos rangs s'éclaircissent. En outre, un nombre croissant de bandits rôdent autour du Refuge noir et je crains que la situation ne s'aggrave encore si personne ne nous aide.

Your mentor



Eclairouse de la Garde du Lion Tria

Then some people help you figure out what you need to learn next



Progression (monde)

100%

303/303 189/189

486/486 226/226

653/653

Collines de Kessex  
100%

14/14 5/5

16/16 9/9

20/20

Finally, you're comfortable enough in this role to maybe start exploring a new one

To project manager mountains

To tech lead valley

To manager city





# Thank you!

Your turn to speak :)



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